Claims

[c1]   1. A method comprising:

providing a primary electronic component having a first identifier stored therein;

providing a secondary electronic component having a second identifier stored therein;

coupling the secondary component to the primary component;

comparing the first identifier to the second identifier;

operating the primary component in conjunction with the secondary component if the first identifier matches the second identifier; and

operating the primary component without the secondary component if the first identifier does not match the second identifier.

[c2]   2. The method of claim 1, further comprising storing the first identifier in a memory in the primary component and storing the second identifier in a memory in the secondary component.

[c3]   3. The method of claim 2, wherein the first and second identifiers are stored in non-volatile memories.

[c4]   4. The method of claim 1, wherein coupling the secondary component to the primary component comprises coupling the secondary component to the primary component via a first interconnect which is configured to transfer data between the secondary component and the primary component during normal operation and via a second interconnect which is configured to transfer data between the secondary component and the primary component for the purposes of comparing the first identifier to the second identifier.

[c5]   5. The method of claim 4, wherein the first interconnect is a PCI bus.
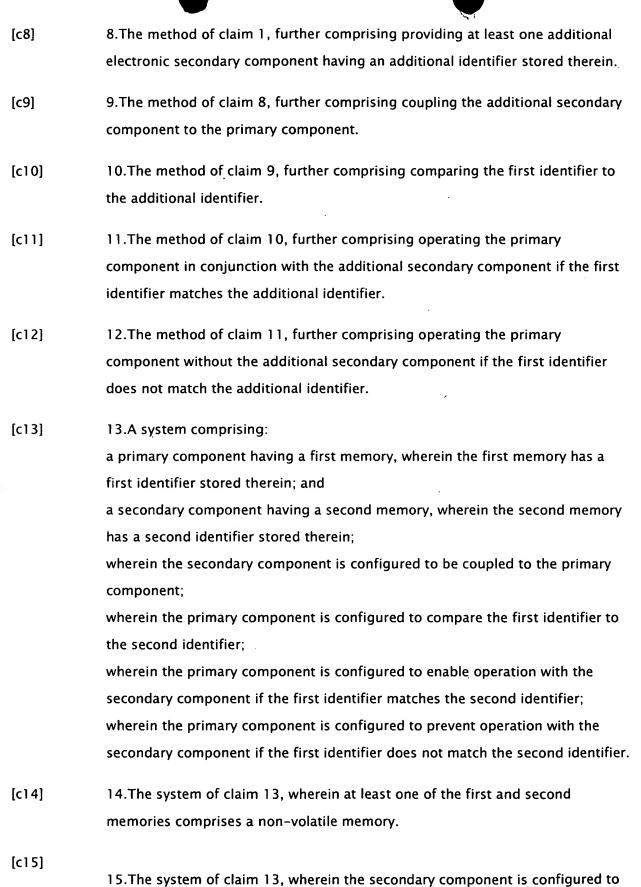
[c6]   6. The method of claim 1, further comprising enabling the secondary component if the first identifier matches the second identifier; and disabling the secondary component if the first identifier does not match the second identifier.
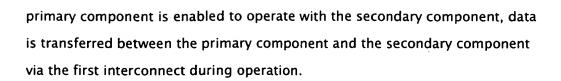
[c7]   7. The method of claim 1, wherein comparing the first identifier to the second identifier is performed during boot-up.

[c8] 8.The method of claim 1, further comprising providing at least one additional electronic secondary component having an additional identifier stored therein.

[c9] 9.The method of claim 8, further comprising coupling the additional secondary component to the primary component.

[c10] 10.The method of claim 9, further comprising comparing the first identifier to the additional identifier.

[c11] 11.The method of claim 10, further comprising operating the primary component in conjunction with the additional secondary component if the first identifier matches the additional identifier.

[c12] 12.The method of claim 11, further comprising operating the primary component without the additional secondary component if the first identifier does not match the additional identifier.

[c13] 13.A system comprising:
a primary component having a first memory, wherein the first memory has a first identifier stored therein; and
a secondary component having a second memory, wherein the second memory has a second identifier stored therein;
wherein the secondary component is configured to be coupled to the primary component;
wherein the primary component is configured to compare the first identifier to the second identifier;
wherein the primary component is configured to enable operation with the secondary component if the first identifier matches the second identifier;
wherein the primary component is configured to prevent operation with the secondary component if the first identifier does not match the second identifier.

[c14] 14.The system of claim 13, wherein at least one of the first and second memories comprises a non-volatile memory.

[c15] 15.The system of claim 13, wherein the secondary component is configured to be coupled to the primary component by a first interconnect, wherein if the

primary component is enabled to operate with the secondary component, data is transferred between the primary component and the secondary component via the first interconnect during operation.
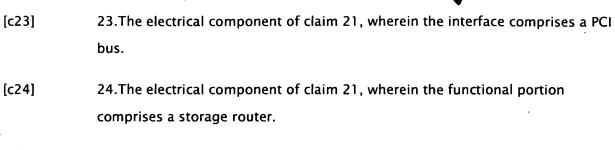
[c16]   16.The system of claim 15, wherein the first interconnect comprises a PCI bus.

[c17]   17.The system of claim 15, wherein the secondary component is further configured to be coupled to the primary component by a second interconnect, wherein the primary component is configured to receive the second identifier via the second interconnect.

[c18]   18.The system of claim 17, wherein the second interconnect comprises an Inter-IC (I^2C) bus.

[c19]   19.The system of claim 13, wherein the primary component comprises a storage router.

[c20]   20.The system of claim 19, wherein the secondary component is selected from the group consisting of: a Fibre Channel interface module; an LVD SCSI interface module; an HVD SCSI module; and an iSCSI interface module.

[c21]   21.An electrical component configured to have a secondary component coupled thereto, wherein the electrical component comprises:
a functional portion;
an interface configured to couple the functional portion to a secondary component;
a memory configured to store a first identifier; and
a comparator configured to receive a second identifier from the secondary component and to compare the first identifier to the second identifier, wherein the comparator is configured to enable operation of the functional portion with the secondary component if the first identifier matches the second identifier and to disable operation of the functional portion with the secondary component if the first identifier does not match the second identifier.

[c22]   22.The electrical component of claim 21, wherein the memory comprises a non-volatile memory.

[c23]   23. The electrical component of claim 21, wherein the interface comprises a PCI bus.

[c24]   24. The electrical component of claim 21, wherein the functional portion comprises a storage router.

[c25]   25. The electrical component of claim 21, further comprising a serial bus configured to be coupled to the secondary component, wherein the electrical component is configured to receive the second identifier via the serial bus.

[c26]   26. The electrical component of claim 25, wherein the serial bus comprises an Inter-IC (I^2C) bus.